

Press Release N°5

Wiesbaden, April 12, 2005

Female Directors get Main Awards at go East

International stars like Hanna Schygulla or Kira Muratova fascinated the audience at the fifth instalment of goEast / distinct rise in admissions / intensive communication at numerous special events / four female directors awarded

With the grand award ceremony on Tuesday evening, the fifth instalment of goEast – the festival of Central and Eastern European films – came to a close. For six days, 118 long and short films could be seen on the screen – accompanied by film-talks, panel-discussions and an extensive number of special events. Ten feature films and six documentaries were in competition. The head of the jury, Robert Gliński, handed out the awards with a total endowment of € 27,500: the Golden Lily or Škoda-Award for the Best Film; the Award for the Best Director, endowed by the city of Wiesbaden; as well as the non-profit Hertie-foundation's Award for the Best Documentary.

Some of the festival-highlights were Sunday's matinee with Hanna Schygulla, the Students' Film Competition, the reading and party with "Russendisko"-author Wladimir Kaminer and the first instalment of our new film-series "Portrait", which this year focused on Slovakian director Martin Šulík. Many of the special events, like the political panel-discussion about the future of the Balkans and the reading by Croatian author Marica Bodrožič, proved to be audience favourites. The many film-talks and other special events allowed more than 150 international guests an opportunity for discussion and networking. „Countries now have faces – geographical boundaries have been replaced by visual impressions, stories and individuals”, said festival director Christine Kopf during the award ceremony.

The numbers prove that goEast has become a permanent fixture in the calendars of the audience in and around Wiesbaden and that the festival has established itself on the international festival-circuit. In 2005 goEast had a total of 6500 cinema-admissions, . The number of films submitted rose by 20 percent. More than 150 international guests and film-professionals, as well as 80 German and international journalists, came to Wiesbaden for the fifth instalment of the festival for Central and Eastern European films. More than 350 highschool-students from Wiesbaden attended the goEast School Film Days.

The **Škoda-Award for the Best Film** – endowed with €10,000 – went to NASTROJŠČIK / THE TUNER by Kira Muratova (Russia / Ukraina, 2004) for "its atmosphere and a convincing peace of acting, taking us into a world of charm and humor."

The **Award for the Best Director** – endowed with €7,500 by the city of Wiesbaden – went to Małgorzata Szumowska for ONO / STRANGER (Poland / Germany 2004). The jury praised „by using highly expressive visual and acoustic means the director found an emotionally impressive way to tell us the story of a woman who is forced to make an existential decision.“

The **Documentary Award by the Hertie Foundation** – endowed with €10,000 – went to Boris Mitić for the film LIJEPA DYANA / PRETTY DYANA (Serbia and Montenegro 2003). The jury judged: "The film "Pretty Dyana" is dedicated to people excluded from society. Boris Mitić approaches them in such a way that we get to know their situation and how they creatively cope with their extreme living conditions.“

The Jury gave three **special mentions**:

The Czech film MISTŘI / CHAMPIONS by Marek Najbrt for its "warm and ironic portrait of life in the countryside".

The Russia Film MARS by Anna Melikjan for her "highly imaginative film with magical pictures from real life."

RENATA LITVINOVA received a special mention for the Best Actress "not only for her depiction of an extravagant, tempting modern woman but also for her original acting" in the films "Nastrojščik / The Tuner" and "Boginja: kak ja poljubila / The Goddess: how I fell in Love".

For the fourth time, **FIPRESCI**, the International Federation of Film Critics awarded the **International Film Critics' Prize** in Wiesbaden. KALADAN KELGEN KYZ / REBIRTH ISLAND by Rustem Abdrašov (Kazakhstan 2004) convinced the film critics' jury.

On Saturday, the best short films of the international **Students' Film Competition** won audience awards endowed with €750. In the category Documentary and Experimental Film, the award went to MÓJ SYN ROMEK / MY SON ROMEK by Marcin Solarz (Poland 2003) – The Radio and Television Department of Krzysztof Kieslowski's name, the University of Silesia, Katowice (WRiTV).

The Award for Best Short Feature Film also went to Marcin Solarz for his film KOBIEȚA Z CIEMNOŚCI / WOMEN FROM THE DARK (Poland 2004).

The Award for the Best Animated Film went to DELIVERY (world premiere at goEast) by Till Nowak (Germany 2005) from the Media Design Department at the University of Applied Sciences Mainz.

Saturday, April 10, also marked the end of the second part of the interdisciplinary scientific symposium, which this year focused on cinema from the Baltic States Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and Poland. Even though media interest in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe has waned one year after the biggest enlargement in the history of the European Union, interest in the discussion-forum has actually increased. After illuminating historical backgrounds in 2004, this year's symposium concentrated on a different region and also „increasingly focused on the importance of culture for the current identities of the respective countries," explained the director of the symposium, film historian Dr. Hans-Joachim Schlegel.

Press-materials and photos for all films can be downloaded at www.filmfestival-goeast.de.

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goEast 2005

THE JURY

Robert Gliński (Poland), the head of the jury
Aleksandra Balmazović (Slovenia)
Aleksej Popogrebskij (Russia)
Jusup Razykov (Uzbekistan)
Jürgen Haase (Germany)

THE FIPRESCI-JURY

Martin Blaney (Germany)
Vladimir Cvetković Sever (Croatia)
Mark Lepoivre (France)

THE AWARDS

Škoda Award for the Best Film

NASTROJŠČIK / THE TUNER
Russia / Ukraine 2004
directed by Kira Muratova

Documentary Award by the Hertie Foundation

LIJEPA DYANA / PRETTY DYANA
Serbia and Montenegro 2003
directed by Boris Mitić

Award for the Best Director

ONO / STRANGER
Poland / Germany 2004
directed by Małgorzata Szumowska

Special Mentions :

MISTŘI / CHAMPIONS
Czech Republic 2004
directed by Marek Najbrt

MARS
Russia 2004
directed by Anna Melikjan

RENATA LITVINOVA for her acting in the films:
"Nastrojščik" / "The Tuner", Russia / Ukraine 2004 and
"Boginja: Kak Ja Poljubila" / "The Goddess: How I Fell In Love",
Russia 2004

Award of the International Film Critic (FIPRESCI-PRIZE):

KALADAN KELGEN KYZ / REBIRTH ISLAND
Kazakhstan 2004
directed by Rustem Abdrašov

Audience awards for the best Students' Films

Category I – Documentary and Experimental Film

MÓJ SYN ROMEK / MY SON ROMEK
Poland 2003
directed by Marcin Solarz
The Radio and Television Department of Krzysztof
Kieslowski's name, the University of Silesia, Katowice
(WRiTV)

Category II – Short Feature Film

KOBIETA Z CIEMNOŚCI / WOMEN FROM THE DARK
Poland 2004
directed by Marcin Solarz
The Radio and Television Department of Krzysztof
Kieslowski's name, the University of Silesia, Katowice
(WRiTV)

Category III – Animated Film

DELIVERY (world premiere)
Germany 2005
directed by Till Nowack
Media Design Department at the University of Applied
Sciences Mainz